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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /090 W
----------121508Z 018014 /44
R 121347Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2967
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0466

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PLO, UR, US, XF
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST: SYTENKO IN PARIS DECEMBER 21

REF: (A) 76 MOSCOW 18622 (NOTAL), (B) 76 MOSCOW 20107

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FRENCH REPORT OF SYTENKO CONSULTATIONS AT QUAI DEC 21 ADDS FILIGREE TO SIVIET PRESENTATIONS REPORTED REFTELS:

-- DESPITE DANGERS, RECONVENING MEPC CANNOT AWAIT NORMALIZATION IN LEBANON;

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-- GENEVA PLENARIES COULD DISCUSS "GENERAL" ISSUES LIKE DEMILITARIZED ZONES, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND NAVIGATION WHILE WORKING GROUPS PROCEED, AND "FLEXIBLE FORMULA" CAN PERHAPS BE FOUND TO MEED ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON 242 AND 338 AS ONLY BASES FOR NEGOTIATIONS;

-- ALTHOUGH UN HAS ROLE OF SOME KIND, NEITHER

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SC NOR GA SEEMED CAPABLE OF FILLING IT, ACCORDING TO
SYTENKO; AND

-- GENEVA IS ISRAEL'S ONLY PATH TO SURVIVAL,
AND FAILURE TO START OR FAILURE TO SUCCEED WILL LAY HEAVY
RESPONSIBILITY ON ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IN POWER. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS GIVEN US RUNDOWN ON DEC 21
CONSULTATIONS IN PARIS BETWEEN SOVIET MFA NE COUNTRIES
DIVISION DIRECTOR SYTENKO AND QUAI DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA
AND NE AFFAIRS. BY AND LARGE, SYTENKO'S PRESENTATION
WAS CONSISTENT WITH HIS RECENT COMMENTS TO DCM AND
BRITISH IN LONDON (REFTELS) WITH FOLLOWING VARIATIONS
AND ADDITIONS.

3. ON LEBANON, SYTENKO SAW THREE DANGERS AHEAD--OUTBREAKS
DURING COLLECTION OF HEAVY WEAPONRY FROM CONFLICTING
SIDES, CONTINUING TENSION IN GENRAL, AND CONSEQUENCES
OF ISRAELI "STATE BANDITRY" IN SOUTH--BUT INSISTED
RECONVENING AT GENEVA CANNOT AWAIT COMPLETELY NORMAL
SITUATION IN LEBANON.

4. ON GENEVA, SYTENKO NOTED DEMILITARIZED ZONES, ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING
JERUSALEM, AND NAVIGATION AS "GENERAL" ISSUES PLENARIES
COULD DISCUSS WHILE WORKING GROUPS WENT ABOUT THEIR
BUSINESS. ADMITTING THAT SOVIETS KNEW VERY WELL THAT
ISRAEL DID NOT WISH TO NEGOTIATE ON ANY BASIS OTHER
THAN UN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, HE OPINED THAT "FLEXIBLE
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FORMULA" COULD PERHAPS BE FOUND TO GET AROUND PROBLEM.

5. ON UN, SYTENKO THOUGHT ORGANIZATION AND ESPECIALLY
SC HAD ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS, BUT SAID SOVIETS DO NOT THINK
CONCRETE AGREEMENTS, TEXTS OR TREATIES CAN BE ARRIVED
AT IN UNSC, SINCE PUBLIC NATURE OF ITS WORK AND PRESENCE
OF TOO MANY SIDES FORCES U.S. TO USE ITS VETO. PROBLEM
IS HOWEVER EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED IN UNGA.

6. ON ISRAEL, SYTENKO REPORTEDLY SAID GENEVA CONFERENCE
IS ONLY WAY TO SURVIVAL FOR ISRAEL, AND FAILURE TO START
OR FAILURE TO SUCCEED ONCE STARTED WOULD PLACE HEAVY
RESPONSIBILITY ON ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IN POWER AT TIME.
HE PROFESSED NOT TO UNDERSTAND NEGATIVE ISRAELI REACTION
ON NEW AGENDA ITEM ON CESSATION OF STATE OF WAR IN SOVIET OCTOBER
PROPOSAL, SINCE THIS HAD BEEN ISRAELI IDEA.

7. ON SOVIET RELATIONS WITH OUTHER COUNTRIES IN ME
CONTEXT, SYTENKO TOLD FRENCH NOTHING NEW HAD TRANSPIRED

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WITH U.S. SINCE KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER, ALTHOUGH SOVIETS HOPED FOR "MORE REALISTIC" ATTITUDE FROM NEW ADMINISTRATION, NOR WITH EGYPT SINCE FAHMI-GROMYKO MEETING IN SOFIA, WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE AT EGYPTIAN REQUEST. LIKE IRANIANS, SAUDIS WERE REACTIONARY REGIME WHICH SUPPORTED OTHER REACTIONARY REGIME WITH OIL MONEY, AND SOVIES WERE CONCERNED ABOUT GULF SECURITY. ON SOUTH YEMEN, DHOFAR REBELLION HAD EXISTED BEFORE PDRY CAME TO POWER, AND PDRY WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.
TOON

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